



2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In its 30th year the State Coastal Conservancy awarded **\$44 million** for more than **100 projects** along California's coast and around San Francisco Bay, leveraging over **\$80 million** for those projects from the federal and local governments and private sources. The funds are being used to protect natural lands, improve wildlife habitat, support local economies, and help people enjoy the coast. The majority of the Conservancy's funding came from resources bond acts approved by the State's voters in 2000 and 2002.

In 2006 the Conservancy worked with communities and conservation groups to purchase and protect more than **20,000 acres** of land for public recreation, wildlife habitat, and continued farming and forestry. All acquisitions were from willing sellers.

To accomplish its goals the Conservancy relies on partnerships with **local communities** and more than **100 nonprofit organizations** based in all parts of the coast and around San Francisco Bay. This network ensures that local residents inform the Conservancy about coastal needs and opportunities and are actively involved in the Conservancy's work.

For the length of California's coast the Conservancy

- awarded \$3.1 million in grants to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation and the Foundation of California State University, Monterey Bay for detailed mapping of portions of the ocean seafloor between Ventura County and Point Arena. These are the first steps toward creating a seamless **map of all of California's seafloor**. The mapping will help identify fish habitats, navigational hazards, geologic formations capable of producing tsunamis, and other features to help manage marine habitats and improve public safety. The Conservancy's funding was available through the State Ocean Protection Council. (February 3, April 27, and November 9)
- awarded \$2 million, available through the Ocean Protection Council, to the California Ocean Science Trust to plan for and enact the **Statewide Marine Protected Area Monitoring Program**. The Trust will analyze and manage monitoring data for designated marine protected areas and report on its findings. (November 9)
- provided the Maritime Museum of San Diego with \$100,000 to plan and coordinate **Tall Ships Exposition** festivals to be held in 2008 at California ports. The events will feature visits from historic tall ships and working craft from around the world in conjunction with multi-cultural educational and recreational activities. (April 27)

Coastal Conservancy 2006 Accomplishments

- continued its long-term support for building the **California Coastal Trail**, envisioned to one day run the full length of the State's coastline. In 2006 the Conservancy produced placards displaying a new Coastal Trail emblem for posting in 2007 and provided financial and technical support for planning and construction of new sections of the trail in several parts of the coast. About half of the planned 1,200-mile trail is now open to the public.



South Coast

For the length of the South Coast the Conservancy

- granted \$500,000 to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project for the **Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project** Science Advisory Project. The funding supports the design, construction, and monitoring of wetlands restoration in South Coast watersheds. (October 5)

For San Diego County the Conservancy

- made \$500,000 available for the preparation of environmental documents and engineering designs for restoration of **Buena Vista Lagoon**. The funding helps coordinate the restoration efforts of local, State, and federal agencies, and continues the Conservancy's work for the lagoon that began in the early 1980s. (June 29)
- provided \$250,000 to the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation to continue, for at least five years, environmental monitoring of **Los Peñasquitos Lagoon** and to update the lagoon's 1985 enhancement plan. The monitoring, which began in 1987, has been essential to the lagoon's ecological management. (June 29)
- granted \$50,000 to the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation for pre-acquisition expenses for the proposed purchase of two properties totaling 35 acres adjacent to an ecological reserve on **Batiquitos Lagoon**. (June 29)
- provided the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) with \$125,000 for a site assessment of the **Western Salt Works** property in south San Diego Bay to determine possible alignments for public trails and the feasibility of converting the Western Salt Works building into an interpretive center. (November 9)

For Orange County the Conservancy

- provided the City of Laguna Beach with \$761,000 for its acquisition of two properties totaling about 20 acres for addition to **Laguna Coast Wilderness Park**. The properties contain coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats and offer trail and greenbelt connections to the coast and existing parklands. (March 2 and June 29)
- provided \$400,000 to the City of Newport Beach to assist in the construction of the teaching laboratory wing of the new **Back Bay Science Center** on Upper Newport Bay. (November 9)
- granted \$240,000 to the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy to assist in the construction of the new Wildlife Care and Education Building at the **Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center**. The building will serve as the public gateway to the Huntington Beach Wetlands, which are being restored with the Coastal Conservancy's assistance. (June 29)

*For **Los Angeles County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$7 million for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority's purchase of 66 acres of the **Los Cerritos Wetlands** near the mouth of the San Gabriel River in Long Beach. The sale, primarily negotiated by the Trust for Public Land, came after more than two decades of effort by the conservation community to acquire properties that contain the wetlands. The Conservancy earlier joined with the cities of Seal Beach and Long Beach and the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to establish the Authority for the purpose of acquiring and restoring the wetlands, which are degraded but still valuable habitat for many species of birds and other wildlife. (February 3 and April 27)
- provided \$3.6 million to California State Parks and \$594,000 to the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains for restoration of **Malibu Lagoon**. Much of the work will be directed at increasing water circulation in the 31-acre lagoon to eliminate stagnant water that collects pollutants and promotes growth of algae. Three island refuges for birds will also be constructed, and the existing parking lot will be relocated and improved for visitor services. The Conservancy received the bulk of the funding—more than \$3.8 million—from the State Water Resources Control Board. (June 29)
- awarded the City of Malibu \$1 million to install water-treatment equipment for three Civic Center storm drains that divert water to **Malibu Creek and Malibu Lagoon**. The equipment will screen trash from the drains and pump the water to a new treatment facility nearby. Installation of the equipment is one of many steps being taken to clean the waters of Malibu Lagoon and the neighboring Surfrider Beach. (April 27)
- provided \$650,000 to Heal the Bay to expand and upgrade exhibits at the popular **Santa Monica Pier Aquarium**. Heal the Bay will use the funding to construct new exhibits highlighting marine life in Santa Monica Bay and the animals and plants that live in the bay's nearshore environment. The funding will also be used to upgrade deteriorating equipment in the aquarium and to analyze a possible aquarium expansion. (April 27)
- provided \$350,000 to Santa Monica Baykeeper to continue its restoration of **kelp forests** at three sites in Santa Monica Bay. Project participants include students from Santa Monica who grow the kelp and volunteer divers who plant it and monitor the stands. The Conservancy first provided funding for the restoration effort in 2001. (April 27)
- made \$245,000 available for technical studies, data collection, and other analyses necessary for restoration of the 600-acre **Ballona Wetlands** south of Marina del Rey. The Conservancy and the Department of Fish and Game are leading the restoration's planning, for which the Conservancy earlier contributed \$1.25 million. (March 2 and April 27)

Coastal Conservancy 2006 Accomplishments

- provided \$150,000 to the California State Parks Foundation for wetlands creation along the **Los Angeles River** at Rio de Los Angeles State Park. The Foundation will collect, grow, and plant native vegetation from the river's watershed at the new four-acre wetlands. The wetlands will re-establish native habitat that has been lost from the site and attract birds by providing protective cover, water, and forage. (April 27)
- provided \$300,000 to the nonprofit organization TreePeople for development of the **Urban Watershed Garden**, an exhibit being constructed within the Center for Community Forestry in Coldwater Canyon Park just north of Beverly Hills. The exhibit will include two areas that mirror each other, one presenting a model of a current urban watershed with impermeable paving, traditional concrete storm drains, and a concrete river channel, and the other presenting a forward-looking model that includes permeable paving, gravel drains, trees, and a more natural river channel. Students will be able to compare the effects of the two systems on water quality. (April 27)
- provided \$100,000 to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy to develop the **White Point Nature Preserve Interpretive Center** on the site of the former Nike Missile Assembly and Testing Building. The center will present exhibits and provide training about conservation ecology and the preservation of local historical resources. (February 3)
- provided \$100,000 to the Venice Canals Foundation to construct a public beach accessway from the Venice Canals to **Venice Beach**. The project will improve two unsightly and hazardous lots and create a safe and scenic recreational resource for residents and visitors. (October 5)
- provided the National Park Service with \$113,000 to restore 4½ acres of wildlife habitat in **Zuma Canyon** in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The site, a former avocado grove, is overrun with invasive plants and is the source of soils eroding into Zuma Creek. The Park Service will work with the Los Angeles Unified School District over the next two years to engage more than 3,000 students and other volunteers in the restoration. (November 9)
- provided the National Park Service with \$137,000 to restore fish and wildlife habitat in and along **Solstice Creek** in the Santa Monica Mountains. The restoration complements work, previously funded by the Conservancy, to remove barriers to the migration of endangered southern steelhead trout in the creek. (April 27 and November 9)
- granted \$100,000 to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to upgrade its **SEA Lab** environmental marine and animal husbandry laboratory and education facilities, relocate and expand its native plant nursery, and plan and develop the Environmental Careers Opportunities Program. Founded in 1995, SEA Lab serves the Corps' mission to provide employment training and environmental education to inner-city youth of Los Angeles. (June 29)

Coastal Conservancy 2006 Accomplishments

- awarded \$30,000 to the National Hispanic Environmental Council to conduct its inaugural **Education and California Youth Environmental Training Institute**. The program is designed to expose minority and other youth to a variety of environmental and conservation issues, regional park resources, local projects, role models, and career possibilities, with a focus on coastal and watershed issues in Southern California. (June 29)
- granted \$200,000 to the Los Angeles Maritime Institute to repair the **tall ship Swift of Ipswich** for use as a waterfront attraction and sailing classroom. The historic 70-foot topsail schooner will be based in the Los Angeles Harbor and serve as an educational and character-building experience for disadvantaged Southern California youth. (October 5)
- granted \$100,000 to Community Conservancy International to complete a feasibility report identifying projects for **treatment of urban storm water** through the creation of a network of parks and wildlife habitat. The study will focus on converting pavement to pervious surfaces that would allow soil and plants to filter water and pollutants. The planning area covers all Los Angeles County watersheds that drain to the coast. (November 9)

*For **Ventura County** the Conservancy*

- provided Santa Barbara Channelkeeper with \$100,000 to monitor water quality and identify restoration opportunities within the lower **Ventura River** watershed. The work will support the restoration of native coastal and streamside habitats for southern steelhead trout and other wildlife. (April 27)
- granted \$45,000 to the SeaDoc Society of the University of California for **removal of derelict fishing gear** in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. The project continues the Conservancy's support for the removal of lost and abandoned fishing gear, which is a hazard to boats, divers, and marine animals and a visual blight on the seafloor. (October 5)

Central Coast

For the length of the Central Coast the Conservancy

- provided \$2.3 million to the University of California for the California Sea Grant College Program's **Central Coast Marine Protected Area Monitoring** project. The project involves data acquisition, monitoring, and socio-economic research in marine protected areas proposed for the Central Coast under California's Marine Life Protection Act. The Conservancy's funding was available through the State Ocean Protection Council. (November 9)

For Santa Barbara County the Conservancy

- awarded \$825,000 to the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County for creek restoration and fish-passage improvements in **Arroyo Hondo and Refugio creeks** on the Gaviota Coast. The work will restore aquatic habitats for a variety of threatened and endangered species and help steelhead trout reach historic spawning areas. (June 29)
- granted \$372,000 to the Cachuma Conservation Release Board to remove a fish migration barrier and restore fish habitat on **Quiota Creek**, a tributary to the lower Santa Ynez River. This is the first step toward enabling endangered southern steelhead trout reach one of the highest quality spawning and rearing habitats in the lower Santa Ynez River system. The river contains one of the largest populations of southern steelhead remaining in the State. (April 27)

For Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties the Conservancy

- granted \$100,000 to Sustainable Conservation to develop and implement a **permit coordination program** to encourage voluntary water quality and habitat improvement projects in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. The purpose of the program is to reduce the duration, cost, and complexity of the regulatory review process for restoration projects on private lands. (November 9)

For San Luis Obispo County the Conservancy

- provided the California Polytechnic State University Center for Coastal Marine Science with \$500,000 to develop the **Morro Bay Ecosystem-Based Management Program**. The program will utilize a holistic resource management approach to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of resource management, conservation, and restoration efforts. The Conservancy's funding was available through the State Ocean Protection Council. (February 3)
- provided \$100,000 to the Trust for Public Land for management of public access to two sandy beaches, trails, and a parking area on a 20-acre parcel at **Piedras Blancas**, up the coast from San Simeon. The site includes one-half mile of coastline located in the middle of 13 miles of oceanfront land that California State Parks acquired in 2004 from the Hearst Ranch. TPL has embarked on a fund-raising campaign for permanent ownership of the property and its possible transfer to the State. (April 27)

Coastal Conservancy 2006 Accomplishments

- awarded \$130,000 to the City of Morro Bay to test and market innovative **low-impact fishing gear** to support the commercial fishing industry and the economic viability of heritage harbors in Morro Bay and Port San Luis. The project will help local fishermen target high-value groundfish whose catch has been severely restricted for the past several years. (November 9)

*For **Monterey County** the Conservancy*

- made \$175,000 available for preparation of a master plan for the **Coastal Trail in Big Sur**. The plan will define one or more alignments for a complete trail through the 75-mile-long region. (June 29)
- granted \$200,000 to the Elkhorn Slough Foundation to prepare a wetlands restoration plan for the 415-acre **Parsons Slough** area of Elkhorn Slough. The goal is to restore the area's tidal salt marsh and reduce the ongoing loss of marshland at the mouth of Elkhorn Slough. The Conservancy received the funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (October 5)

*For **Santa Cruz County** the Conservancy*

- provided Santa Cruz County with \$600,000 to remove two barriers to fish migration on **Valencia Creek**, a tributary to Aptos Creek, and open about five miles of spawning and rearing habitat to steelhead trout. The County used part of the grant to retrofit a culvert and will use the remainder to reconstruct a failed fish ladder that blocks fish passage to upstream habitat, much of which is well suited for spawning and rearing of steelhead and possibly coho salmon. (April 27)
- granted \$220,000 to the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District for fish-passage improvements and creek restoration at Tucker Road on the west branch of **Soquel Creek**. The funding provided for replacement of a concrete ford with a bridge—a major step toward reopening seven miles of the creek to steelhead trout. (June 29)

*For **San Mateo County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$282,000 to the City of Pacifica to install a bridge over **San Pedro Creek** at Adobe Road and remove a culvert that blocks the migration of most of the creek's steelhead trout. This is the fourth project in which the Conservancy has worked with the City to improve the creek's habitat for native steelhead. (November 9)
- provided \$60,000 to the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District to replace an existing culvert with a bridge over **Frenchman's Creek** near Half Moon Bay. The culvert blocks steelhead from the upper two miles of the creek—the most valuable spawning and rearing habitat within the stream system. (November 9)

San Francisco Bay Area

For the Greater San Francisco Bay Area the Conservancy

- made \$6.7 million of new funding available for the **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project** and the associated **South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study**, and granted \$511,000 to the San Francisco Estuary Institute, \$50,000 to PRBO Conservation Science, and \$500,000 to the Coastal Conservancy Association for their continuing work on the projects. The Conservancy is leading the planning effort to restore the 15,000-acre salt ponds, the largest restoration of its kind on the West Coast, and is working in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Santa Clara Valley Water District on a closely related flood-management plan. \$4.7 million of the newly available funds are coming from the Water District. (February 3, April 27, and November 9)
- made almost \$2 million available for the ongoing effort to stem the spread of **invasive *Spartina***, a type of fast-growing cordgrass that presents a serious threat to native wildlife habitat. The funding, available from the California Bay-Delta Authority and the State Wildlife Conservation Board, is supporting work to eradicate the weed on several sites and for research on eradication techniques. (April 27)
- provided Greenbelt Alliance with \$470,000 to complete Phase I of the San Francisco Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals Report and produce a plan for the protection of **open space land in the San Francisco Bay Area**. The work will be done under the direction of the Bay Area Open Space Council and involve conservation organizations and communities throughout the Bay Area. The effort aims to protect lands under threat of development that are critical to the region's long-term wildlife, recreational, and agricultural needs. (March 2 and October 5)
- provided \$200,000 of Conservancy funds and a \$451,000 Department of Water Resources grant for development of the **Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan**, a step toward obtaining considerable State funding available for water supply, water quality, and floodwater management projects. The Conservancy also approved its participation in the Bay Area Water Forum, a venue for public and private organizations to identify and work cooperatively on key water resources issues in the region. (March 2 and November 9)
- granted \$200,000 to the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration for its **San Francisco Estuary Fish Passage Improvement Program**. The funding will support planning for removal of barriers to fish migration on at least four Bay Area streams to help steelhead trout reach important historic spawning habitats. (June 29)
- awarded \$50,000 to Bay Access, Inc. to develop an outreach plan and an environmental education and stewardship program for the **San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail**, a planned network of access sites enabling people in non-motorized boats to enjoy single- and multiple-day trips in San Francisco Bay. (June 29)

Coastal Conservancy 2006 Accomplishments

- awarded \$25,000 to the San Francisco Estuary Institute for **non-native oyster removal** in San Francisco Bay. The removal is targeting the Pacific oyster, only recently found in relatively large numbers in the bay. In some parts of the world the oyster has spread invasively, depleting populations of native wildlife. (November 9)
- provided \$20,000 to the University of California Press Foundation to develop a **San Francisco Bay Environmental Primer**. The primer will provide an introduction and overview of the Bay Area's rich natural and environmental history through the use of text, color maps, and photographs. (November 9)

*For **San Francisco** the Conservancy*

- awarded \$3.3 million to the California State Parks Foundation to restore and enhance tidal wetlands and other shoreline habitats and provide public access and an environmental education facility at **Yosemite Slough** in the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area. The Conservancy also authorized the Association of Bay Area Governments to provide the Foundation with \$172,000 of Conservancy funds to construct a portion of the Bay Trail along the slough's perimeter. (October 5)
- provided \$25,000 to the Fort Mason Foundation to develop an interpretive program for the 13-acre **Fort Mason Center** on San Francisco Bay. The interpretive program will enhance public enjoyment and increase visitor use of the Center, which currently attracts about 1.6 million people a year. (November 9)

*For **Santa Clara County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$500,000 to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District for its acquisition of the historic 238-acre **Stevens Canyon Ranch** for addition to the Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve. The ranch lies at the heart of more than 6,700 acres of publicly owned natural lands in the upper Stevens Creek watershed and provides excellent opportunities for visitors to access regional trails. (March 2)
- granted \$50,000 to the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority to plan a six-mile segment of the **Bay Area Ridge Trail** in the Milpitas-Berryessa area. The trail segment will allow hikers to walk from a creek-side corridor in Alum Rock Park to spectacular viewpoints above 2,500 feet in elevation. (June 29)

*For **Alameda County** the Conservancy*

- provided the City of Oakland with \$1 million to restore habitat on **Lake Merritt's bird islands**, create a demonstration wetland along the lake's shoreline, and research possible improvements to marsh habitat between the islands. The roosting, nesting, and foraging habitats on the five bird islands near Lakeside Park are in great need of renovation, and the new demonstration marsh will help people learn about the types of marshland habitats common to the Bay Area. The Conservancy's funding came from the State Wildlife Conservation Board. (October 5)

Coastal Conservancy 2006 Accomplishments

- provided \$100,000 to the nonprofit organization Urban Ecology to prepare a conceptual plan for the **East Bay Greenway**, envisioned to be a 30-mile public access and recreational corridor beneath the existing elevated BART tracks between Oakland and Fremont. (April 27)
- approved the East Bay Regional Park District's use of \$164,000 to construct almost three miles of an addition to the San Francisco Bay Trail along the **Eden Landing Ecological Preserve** in Hayward. Work will include construction of a 24-car parking lot and a viewing platform next to a portion of the South Bay Salt Ponds restoration. (April 27)
- granted \$80,000 to the Alameda County Water District and \$40,000 to the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration for technical studies of water flows necessary to restore steelhead fisheries to **Alameda Creek**. The creek once supported large populations of steelhead trout, but a series of dams and other structures built since the 1840s have blocked migration of the fish between the bay and its historic spawning grounds. (October 5)
- provided \$50,000 to the Alameda County Resource Conservation District for **Wildlife-Friendly Pond Restoration**. The RCD is working with private landowners to restore livestock ponds for the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and other species that have come to depend on the ponds. (October 5)

*For **Contra Costa County** the Conservancy*

- provided Save Mount Diablo with \$900,000 for its acquisition of a 208-acre portion of the historic **Mangini Ranch** on the southern boundary of Concord. The property contains a variety of wildlife habitats and offers an opportunity to extend trails from the neighboring Lime Ridge Open Space. (March 2)
- granted \$100,000 to American Rivers to construct a fish ladder for Chinook salmon over a **Marsh Creek** drop structure in the City of Brentwood. The Conservancy also granted \$116,000 of funds from the California Bay-Delta Authority to the Natural Heritage Institute to continue planning for restoration of the lower reach of the creek in Oakley and to support an ongoing public outreach program for the creek's watershed. The Conservancy has been working since 1999 to restore the environment of the creek, which flows from Mount Diablo to the Delta. (April 27 and October 5)

*For **Solano County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$500,000 to the Solano Land Trust to construct a new nature center at **Rush Ranch** just south of Fairfield and Suisun City. The nature center will be open to school groups and other visitors who want to learn more about the ranch's history and the natural environment of Suisun Marsh. Trails from the center will lead through fields and along the edges of the marsh to provide glimpses of the area as it has evolved through the last few centuries. (April 27)

*For **Solano and Napa Counties** the Conservancy*

- provided \$46,000 to the University of California for its purchase of 59 acres for addition to **Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve** above the southeast shores of Lake Berryessa. The acquisition will protect a variety of plant and wildlife habitats and greatly improve public access along the Blue Ridge Loop Trail, the most popular hiking trail in the 785,000-acre Blue Ridge-Berryessa Natural Area. (June 29)

*For **Napa County** the Conservancy*

- contributed \$2 million toward the Land Trust of Napa County's purchase of the 3,000-acre **Wildlake Ranch** in the hills east of the Napa Valley near Angwin. The ranch is a highly scenic and biologically rich property that stretches nearly four miles north-to-south and two miles east-to-west. It contains large areas of unspoiled natural land, abundant wildlife, and several potential sites for public trails. (April 27)
- granted \$9,500 to Berryessa Trails and Conservation to design two segments of the planned 150-mile **Lake Berryessa Shoreline Trail**. The trail will be an important component of recreational improvements being planned for the 28,000-acre Lake Berryessa Recreation Area. (October 5)

*For **Bayside and Inland Sonoma County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$400,000 to the City of Santa Rosa to restore fisheries and wildlife habitat and plant native vegetation in the **Prince Memorial Greenway** along Santa Rosa Creek. The funding supports replacement of a concrete channel with more natural structures to provide a better environment for salmon, steelhead, birds, and other wildlife within a popular park in the heart of the city. (February 3)
- provided the Sonoma Land Trust with \$1 million to design the restoration of the 2,300-acre **Sears Point** property on San Pablo Bay. The restoration will convert 1,400 acres of diked fields to a mix of tidal and non-tidal marsh, and about 900 acres of uplands to a mosaic of habitats including streams, native grassland, and wetlands. The restored site will contain habitats for a wide range of native animals and plants, along with a new 2½-mile section of the San Francisco Bay Trail. (April 27)
- granted \$174,000 to the Sonoma Ecology Center to remove poorly placed road fill, restore stream habitat, and re-establish natural water flows at two vehicular stream crossings in the headwaters of **Mill Creek** in Jack London State Historic Park. Largely because of the stream crossings, Mill Creek is one of the most sediment-polluted tributaries to Sonoma Creek, which once contained large populations of steelhead trout and chinook salmon. The Conservancy's funding was available through the State Wildlife Conservation Board. (April 27)

*For **Bayside and Inland Marin County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$100,000 to Marin County for hydraulic and fish-passage studies as part of its flood protection and environmental enhancement plan for **Corte Madera Creek**. The objective of the plan is to reduce flood threats while improving habitat for wildlife, including salmon and steelhead trout. (June 29)

North Coast

For the length of the North Coast the Conservancy

- provided \$700,000 for planning and design of fish-passage improvement projects within Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte, Siskiyou, and Trinity counties through the **Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Planning Program**. The funding will be used to remove barriers to the migration of salmon, steelhead, and other fish, and follows \$670,000 of Conservancy contributions to the program since 2003. (March 2)
- granted \$100,000 to the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration to prepare the **Eel River Salmonid Resources Project**, a database of information for projects to restore populations of salmon and trout throughout the Eel River watershed in Mendocino, Humboldt, Lake, and Trinity counties. (October 5)

For the Coastside of Marin County the Conservancy

- provided the Marin Agricultural Land Trust with \$500,000 toward its acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement over 178 acres of the **Tomales Farm and Dairy** next to the village of Tomales. The easement will prevent the property's subdivision and enable its owners to return its use to agriculture as part of a dairy operation. (October 5)
- provided \$100,000 to **Turtle Island Network** for the development of a watershed interpretive facility at its headquarters adjacent to San Geronimo Creek. The funding will enable construction of a unique outdoor learning center designed to educate people about the links between their land management practices and protection of the watershed. (February 3)

For the Coastside of Sonoma County the Conservancy

- granted \$250,000 to the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District to support gully and creek restoration projects on three ranches in the **Estero Americano watershed** for improved water quality and wildlife habitat. The ranch owners have volunteered to share in the costs and maintain the completed projects. (June 29)
- provided \$60,000 to the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods for continuation and expansion of the Willow Creek Docent Program at **Willow Creek State Park**. The funding will support a variety of educational programs, natural resource restoration, and recreational services. (February 3)

For Mendocino County the Conservancy

- contributed \$7¼ million toward The Conservation Fund's purchase of two forested properties totaling more than 16,000 acres in the watersheds of **Big River and Salmon Creek**. TCF will manage the properties as working forests but will harvest timber at sustainable levels for improved forest structure, water quality, and wildlife habitat. (June 29)

Coastal Conservancy 2006 Accomplishments

- granted \$200,000 to the Mendocino Land Trust to prepare phase 1 of the **Mendocino County Coastal Trail Plan**, initiating the planning and design of a continuous Coastal Trail route along the county's coast. The work will include conceptual planning for trail segments, assessment of segments that already exist on public lands, and detailed design of segments in the Navarro Headlands and Noyo Headlands/Glass Beach areas. (June 29)
- provided \$56,000 to California State Parks to purchase audio/visual equipment for the **Mendocino Interactive Underwater Program**. The program will provide two-way communication between a camera-equipped diver and on-shore participants, including students in classrooms well inland. The diver and marine scientists will provide information and answer questions on sea life, kelp forests, ocean safety, and caring for coastal and marine environments. (February 3)
- granted \$172,000 to the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District to reduce flows of sediment into Mill Creek, a tributary of the Navarro River, monitor water flows and quality on three of the river's lower tributaries, and increase public awareness of **Navarro River watershed** issues by installing signs along roadways and recreational areas. (October 5)
- provided \$30,000 to the Sonoma Land Trust for pre-acquisition planning, including a beach access and trail study, for the **Cuffey's Cove Property** just north of Elk. The 125-acre property contains four miles of coastline, several sandy beaches, the site of a former logging town, and a potential route for the Coastal Trail. (November 9)
- provided \$10,000 to the Moat Creek Managing Agency for operation and management of the **Moat Creek and Ross Creek** shoreline access sites and associated trails about two miles south of Point Arena. The sites were created as part of an early and successful Conservancy effort to reduce the density of the Whiskey Shoals subdivision for the protection of scenic natural and recreational lands. (February 3)

*For **Humboldt County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$921,000 to the City of Arcata for its purchase of 68 acres and restoration of 82 acres of the **Arcata Baylands**. The funding supports the City's long-term efforts to protect and restore natural lands on the northern shores of Humboldt Bay. The Conservancy's funding was available from a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant. (June 29)
- provided \$358,000 to the City of Arcata for its acquisition of the 175-acre **Sunny Brae property** on the City's southeast border. The forested land contains spawning habitat for coho salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout and offers sites for hiking trails and other recreational opportunities. (March 2)

Coastal Conservancy 2006 Accomplishments

- granted \$525,000 to the Friends of the Dunes Land Trust and \$300,000 to the Manila Community Services District to acquire two properties totaling 92 acres on the **North Spit of Humboldt Bay**. The oceanfront properties contain a variety of natural habitats and offer opportunities for new public trails. Friends of the Dunes plans to convert an existing residence to a visitors center on one of the properties. (June 29)
- provided the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection with \$1 million toward its purchase of a conservation easement on the 1,500-acre **Valley View Ranch** in Petrolia on the north fork of the Mattole River. The easement will allow grazing and timber production to continue on the property, subject to restrictions that will protect wildlife habitat and allow for sustainable timber harvests. (November 9)
- provided \$700,000 to the Redwood Community Action Agency to construct a 2,200-foot section of the **Hammond Coastal Trail** in McKinleyville. The trail segment will fix the “hole in the Hammond” and connect existing sections of the trail, allowing uninterrupted travel for 5½ miles along the coast. (June 29)
- granted \$375,000 to the Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria to develop engineering designs and secure permits for reconstruction of the **Trinidad Pier**. The pier, built in 1947, is important to Trinidad Harbor’s tourist and fishing economies but has become unsafe. (October 5)
- granted \$100,000 to the Redwood Community Action Agency to complete the design and engineering of the **Humboldt Bay Water Trails**, a planned system of routes for canoeists and kayakers anchored by access sites on the shore. The Conservancy has provided support for development of the water trails since 2001. (October 5)
- granted \$50,000 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to eradicate nonnative cordgrass, *Spartina densiflora*, from portions of the **Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge**. The aggressively growing plant overruns extensive areas of shoreline habitats, significantly reducing the diversity of plants and animals. 62 acres of Humboldt Bay have been targeted for eradication of the cordgrass and re-vegetation with native species. (June 29)
- authorized use by the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program of \$45,000 of Conservancy funds to replace tide gates to improve salmon and trout migration in **Salmon Creek**, a tributary to southern Humboldt Bay. (October 5)
- provided \$100,000 to the University of California for the California Sea Grant College Program’s determination of **subtidal habitat goals for Humboldt Bay**. Researchers will assemble and collect data to better understand the nearshore ecology of the area and identify conservation needs and opportunities. California Sea Grant will use an additional \$75,000 from the Conservancy to develop an **Ecosystem-Based Management Program** for the Humboldt Bay area involving conservation organizations, researchers, and community representatives. (November 9)

*For **Del Norte County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$1 million to Smith River Alliance, Inc. to improve fish habitat and control erosion in the **Mill Creek Forest** portion of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park near Crescent City. SRA will use the Conservancy's funding to install refuge structures in creeks for young fish, remove barriers to fish migration, and provide two years of winter "Storm Patrol" to remove debris and keep water flowing in the creeks. Mill Creek offers one of the best opportunities to restore threatened populations of coho salmon in the North Coast. (June 29)
- authorized use by the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program of \$75,000 of Conservancy funds to replace a steel culvert that is the last remaining barrier to salmon and steelhead migration in **Yonkers Creek**, a tributary to Lake Earl. Replacement of the culvert with a better designed structure will allow fish to reach 1.7 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat. (October 5)

*For the **Klamath River** the Conservancy*

- completed a study suggesting it would be safe and relatively inexpensive to remove four hydroelectric dams in California and Oregon that block salmon and other migrating fish from historic spawning grounds upstream of Iron Gate Dam in Siskiyou County. The dams, built between 1908 and the 1960s, trap some 21 million cubic yards of sediment. The study showed that the sediment is not contaminated with toxic materials and that its release would not endanger areas downstream.